सेवा कार्यक्रम जो समयवद्ध पद्धति से पूरे कवरेज के लिए पहचान किया गया है, को नौवी योजना में उच्च प्राथमिकता दी जायेगी।

Know-how in Space Research to Middle-East Countries

1473. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any of the Middle-East Countries have approached Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for providing technical know-how in the field of space research;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the steps taken by ISRO to capture the World Space Research market, especially in the third world countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Department of Space has set up a company — Antrix Corporation Limited, specifically for the marketing of Indian space products and services and Antrix has been actively pursuing the space market in the third world countries, through responding to tenders, undertaking publicity exercises, as well as inviting the concerned agencies for visits and discussions in India to apprise them of our capabilities. In this process, Antrix has already secured some contracts from a few developing countries.

Rayalty on Crude Oil and Natural Gas

1474. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for fixing the rate of royalty on crude oil and natural Gas;

(b) when the rate of royalty on crude oil was revised last, alongwith the rates thereof; and

(c) by when the rate of royalty is likely to be revised further;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Royalty on crude oil and natural gas in governed by the provisions of the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) act, 1948 and the Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 1959.

(b) The rate of royalty on crude oil was last revised to Rs. 481 per metric tonne in February, 1993.

(c) The royalty will be revised after the well-head price w.e.f. 1993 is fixed.

Subsidy on Petroleum Products and oil Pool Account Deficit

1475. SHRI O.P. KOHLI Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether subsidy on petroleum products during the current financial year is going to cross Rs. 18,000 crores;

(b) whether the oil pool account deficit would reach unmanageable proportion at Rs. 15,500 crores and if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the country is faced with rise in deficit in oil pool account, in spite of recent heavy increase effected in the prices of petroleum products, and

(d) how Government propose to tackle this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BALLU): (a) The subsidy on petroleum products during 1996-97 is estimated at Rs. 18,440 Crores.